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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 1 of 1

<i>Confirmation Number</i>	1232
<i>Application Number</i>	10/015631
<i>Filing Date</i>	10/DEC/2001
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	BENNIE THOMPSON
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	3731
<i>Examiner Name</i>	NGUYEN, TUAN VAN
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	END0786USA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		2001/039426	A1	Makower	11-08-2001	
		3618842	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3643851	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3717294	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3819100	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		3949924	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4204623	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4304236	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4331277	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4349028	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4379457	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4410125	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4513746	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4566620	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		4595007		Mericle		
		4621639		Transue et al		
		4728020	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5040715	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5062563	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5127486		Rice et al.	06-08-1993	
		5190203	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5192288	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5217472	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5258010	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5423858	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5437684	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5443197	A	United States Surgical Corp.		

		5443198	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5447514	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5454825	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5478003		Green, David T.	12-26-1995	
		5485952	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5522817	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5560532	A	United States Surgical Corp.		
		5593421	A	Bauer	01-14-1997	
		6530933		Yeung, et al		
		6626916		Yeung, et al		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	KindCode ⁵				
		EP	40157	A1	United States Surgical Corp.	EP		
		EP	543107	B1	United States Surgical Corp.	EP		
		WO	98/07374	A	Hayhurst	02-26-1998		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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